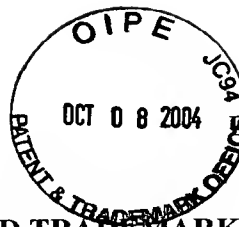


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: October 5, 2004

Signature:

Louise Schultz  
(Louise Schultz)



3628 IFW  
ocket No.: 65678-0045  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Patrick O'Brien et al.

Application No.: 09/995,374

Confirmation No.: 3564

Filed: November 26, 2001

Art Unit: N/A

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR  
BENCHMARKING ASSET CHARACTERISTICS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**SECOND STATUS INQUIRY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

A Status Inquiry was filed on May 27, 2004. To date, no response has been received from the Patent and Trademark Office. It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. 65678-0045 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: October 5, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By Michael B. Stewart

Michael B. Stewart

Registration No.: 36,018

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